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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Situation in Pit Coal Mining

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1. A total of 15,000,000 earmarks was earmarked, in 1953, for opening work in the Muelisen coal district which was expected to increase the annual pit coal output to 150,000 in 1954.
 2. Since the geological conditions were not clear, it was decided to improve only the technical equipment of mine Martin Hoop IV and build an air shaft which was urgently needed. The output of mine Martin Hoop IV amounted to only 45 percent of the plan quota as a result of fires which, source thought, were caused by arsonists, as they broke out simultaneously in the three involved sections when the shift changed.
 3. In late July 1953, a technical commission arrived from the USSR to prepare an expert opinion on the Zwickau pit coal district. On 19 August, [redacted] that the commission had expressed the opinion that the Zwickau district would be exhausted in about 20 years, the annual quota of 1,250,000 tons would steadily decrease, the views held by Adolf Hennicke on the Zwickau mining were wrong, and that the Soviet-made combine operating in the Zwickau district were utilized only 45 percent. The commission advised against further investments.
 4. The experts advocated that only 3,000,000 earmarks be invested for special measures, such as the opening of the so-called Luergershafts and the pumping off of about 6,000,000 cubic meters of water to secure the Karl Marx shaft which was about 200 meters below the water level. They also supported investments for the Martin Hoop mine.
 5. A new vein was found by boring in the Halle region. [redacted] It contained good coal in larger quantities than expected.
- 25X1 [redacted] Current. Since the present report does not mention the pit coal boring near Pohrlitz-Kirchheim, it may be concluded that this boring produced no appreciable results. This was also confirmed by other information.

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